



# SPIS Project Receives Funding from HHS Secretary's Ventures Fund

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

The Signal Processing and Instrumentation Section (SPIS) of CIT's Office of Intramural Research (OIR) is among five recipients of the HHS Secretary's Ventures Fund.

"This award enables an exciting interagency collaboration that brings together scientists, engineers, and veterinarians," said Tom Pohida, chief of SPIS.

HHS Ventures provides growth-stage funding and support to HHS employees with ideas to improve their office, agency, or department's ability to carry out its mission, according to an HHS press release.

SPIS, along with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), the NIH Office of the Director (OD), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), will use "smart cages" to improve the health monitoring of the rodents used in HHS research labs. The cages will help reduce the cost of monitoring the health of the rodents and will ensure the animals used in research at HHS receive quality care.

The interdisciplinary team "will work as a start-up company for the next year. This means accelerated design and fabrication, market analysis, and working with pilot end-user scientists for feedback and validation," said Pohida. "In the end, the team must demonstrate the IDIA-Care rodent 'smart cage' proof-of-concept suitable for commercialization, and establish connections with industry partners."

Read more about the [Secretary's Ventures Funds](#).

CIT staff and collaborators involved in the project:

## CIT SPIS

- Tom Pohida
- Marcial Garmendia
- Jonathan Krynitsky
- Ghadi Salem
- Sarah Anderson

## NIDDK

- Lex Kravitz
- Mohamed Ali

## NIH OD/Division of Veterinary Resources

Charmaine Foltz

## FDA

